Friendly Technologies". The proposal envisaged training of entrepreneurs in low cost tank for storing rain water, improved chulhas, fuel requirements from charred sugarcane trash, nursery business for rural women, etc. Out of the above, nursery business for rural women was preferred, as the nursery activity is also one of the thrust areas of NABARD. The proposal was slightly modified and the project was sanctioned financial assistance.

(c) NABARD has reported that detailed guidelines including formats for submission of proposals for grant assistance from the R and D Fund of NABARD have been widely disseminated. But proposals received by NABARD continue to have information gaps which cause delay in sanction of projects. NABARD has also taken steps to make these formats available on its website.

National Crop Insurance Scheme

† 5043. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) since when the National Crop Insurance Scheme has been launched;

(b) the States where the same has been effected;

(c) whether the same has been effected in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh also; if so, since when and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken/being taken to effect the same in the said States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) was introduced by the Government of India w.e.f. Rabi 1999-2000 season replacing the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) which was in operation in the country since 1985.

(b) and (c) The Scheme is being implemented in 21 States/Union Territories *viz.* (1) Andhra Pradesh, (2) Assam, (3) Bihar, (4) Chhattisgarh, (5) Goa, (6) Gujarat, (7) Himachal Pradesh, (8) Jharkhand, (9) Karnataka, (10) Kerala, (11) Madhya Pradesh, (12) Maharashtra, (13) Meghalaya, (14) Orissa, (15) Sikkim, (16) Tamil Nadu, (17) Tripura, (18) Uttar Pradesh, (19) West Bengal, (20) Andaman & Nicobar Islands and (21) Pondicherry. While the undivided State of Madhya Pradesh joined the Scheme since inception thereof i.e. from Rabi 1999-2000 season, the newly created State of Chhattisgarh formally joined the Scheme from Rabi 2000-01 season.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.